THE COMPANIES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, I beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Companies Regulation, I of 1063. The object of the amending Bill is to bring the Regulation into accord with the law in British India.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE LAND ACQUISITION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I also beg for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Land Acquisition Regulation, III of 1067, as amended by Regulation VIII of 1085. The object of this Bill is to make provision for cases of disputes as to the amount of compensation, &c. being referred to the Civil Courts for decision.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE GAME PRESERVATION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, Travancore abounds in forests and has long been famous for its game. To preserve this renown, it is necessary to make provision for the better protection of game, and I accordingly beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Game Preservation Regulation, III of 1073.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, in accordance with the leave granted me at the meeting of the Council held on the 1st June 1911, to introduce a Bill to regulate the use of Motor Vehicles in Travancore, I beg leave to introduce it in Council this day. The draft Bill was published in the Gazette with the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I have explained therein the reasons for this piece of legislation. The proposed legislation contains fourteen sections. The main object intended to be conserved is to regulate the use of such vehicles by making provision for their registration, for the taking out of licenses and for controlling their speed to avoid accidents. I have very little doubt that the principle of the Bill will be acceptable and I therefore move that it be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Vieyra, Mr. Madhavan Tampi and the Mover, to report within one month.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.

Carried.

THE SALT BILL.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— Sir, I propose that the Report of the Select Committee on this Bill be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— To make the heading and the preamble sufficiently comprehensive, I propose that the words "Salt Revenue and to provide for the" be inserted between the words "the" and "improvement" and that the words "and the efficient collection of salt revenue" be omitted, in both the heading and the preamble.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 3, Clause (h).

As Excise Inspectors are put in charge of Salt Factories also, I propose that the words "or Salt Factory", be inserted between the words "Range" and "in" in line 3.

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Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

C rried.

Section 3, Clause (j).

Mr Subrahmanya Iyer.— I propose that the words "removal after" occurring between "pending" and "payment" in line 6, be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 3, Clause (k).

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I propose that the word "Sirkar" be substituted for the word "public".

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 3, Clause (l).

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— As the manufacture and refinement of saltpetre is not contemplated by the Bill, I propose that the words "or saltpetre" in line 3 be omitted and the word "or" be inserted between the words "substances" and "salt" in line 2.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 3, Clause (m).

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— For the reason already stated, I propose that the words "or saltpetre" in lines 3 and 4 be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 3, Clause (o).

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I think that the word "place" should not include a "conveyance" and I therefore propose that the words "or any conveyance" be omitted and that the word "or" be inserted between the words 'tent' and "vessel".

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 4, Clauses (c), (d) and (e).

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—Clauses (*a*) and (*b*) have marginal notes, while the remaining clauses have not. I propose that the marginal note "Other officers" be inserted for Clause (*c*); the marginal note "Delegation of the powers of the Government", for Clause (*d*), and the marginal note "Withdrawal of powers", for Clause *(e)*.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer —Sir, I think that provision should be made for the withdrawal of the powers of the Government delegated under Clause (*d*), and I therefore propose that the following be inserted after the last word "them" in Clause (*e*):—

"or withdraw from any officer any of the powers delegated to him under Clause (*d*)".

conded by Mr. Ananda Row.

rried.

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Section 7.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I propose that the words "which may be" be inserted between the words "conditions" and "so" in the last line of para 2.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I also propose that the words "amended, altered or new" be inserted between the words "such" and "license" in the first line of para 3. This would make the meaning clear.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 9.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I propose that para 1 may be recast as follows:— "Licenses may be transferred or relinquished".

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 12.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— As three kinds of licenses for the manufacture of salt are referred to in Section 8, provision has to be made for converting a salt factory worked under any one of such licenses into a factory worked under any other of such licenses. I therefore propose that para one of the Section be recast as follows:—

"Our Government may direct that any salt factory or portion of a salt factory worked under any one of the three kinds of licenses described in Section 8 shall be worked under any other kind of such licenses".

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.— I also propose that, in the marginal note to this Section, the word "change" be sub-tituted for the word "substitute" and that the words "for the other" at the end, be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 13.

Mr. Raman Pillai, the Excise Commissioner, pointed out that the summoning of the licensees for the issue of new licenses in Chingam would interfere with the work usually done in Kanni called "Purattasi pani", and suggested that Thulam would suit better.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—I propose that "Thulam" be substituted for "Chingam" in line 1, para 2 of this Section. I also propose that the word "change" be substituted for the word "substitute" at the end of the marginal note.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 16.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—Section 14 provides for payment of compensation only in cases in which licenses are cancelled under Section 7, 11 or 13 and not in cases in which licenses are voluntarily relinquished. I therefore propose that the words "or relinquished" in lines 7 and 8 be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

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Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—Sir, the method of calculation of the average quantity, described in the latter part of the Section, seems to require modification. I propose that the following be substituted, as a separate para, for the portion beginning with "in the case of licenses to manufacture &c." in line 8:—

"Such average shall be calculated, (*a*) in the case of salt works of more than five years' standing, on their yield during the five years immediately preceding the date of the cancellation of the license; and (*b*) in the case of salt works of less than five years' standing, on their yield during the whole period of their working."

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 17.

The Excise Commissioner pointed out that the proviso added to this Section by the Select Committee was likely to prejudice the efficient administration of salt factories, as it offered the best inducement possible to a licensee to intentionally infringe the conditions of his license and to demand acceptance of the salt manufactured by him according to his own ways.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—But it would be hard if, because a non-essential condition of the license is broken, the salt manufactured by the licensee, though of approved standard or quality, should be ordered to be destroyed by the Excise Commissioner. I therefore propose that the following be substituted for the proviso:—"but it shall be lawful for the Excise Commissioner to refrain from ordering such destruction, if the salt so manufactured is, in his opinion, of an acceptable quality."

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 19.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I propose that the preposition "to" [illegible] "in" in line 2, and that the word "to" occurring before the last word [illegible] note be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

Section 20.

Mr. Raman Pillai, the Excise Commissioner, observed that the object of the Bill in fixing the share of the licensees as two-fifths was apparently to conserve the right of the licensees of the existing monopoly factories. There was no objection to the grant of the $\frac{2}{5}$ share, so far as the *existing* monopoly factories were concerned. But in regard to *future* monopoly factories, this Section had the effect of binding down the Government to the grant of a stereo-typed share of the out-turn to all licensees.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi pointed out, from the copy of a neet produced by Mr. Sivathanu Pillai with his petition, that the existing monopoly licensees were entitled to the $\frac{2}{5}$ share and that this share was not liable to reduction.

Mr. Kesava Pillai drew the attention of the Council to the representations in the petition of Mr. Sivathanu Pillai.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—In view of the opinions of my learned colleagues and of the Excise Commissioner, I propose that the expression "*viz.*, two-fifths" be omitted and the following proviso be added to the Section as a separate para:—

"Provided that the share of the licensees who, on the date on which this Regulation comes into force, take a two-fifths share of the salt manufactured by them, shall not be liable to be reduced."

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

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Section 21.

The Excise Commissioner observed that, under the existing monopoly system, the salt was not delivered by the licensee to any Government officer prior to the time of sale. It was stored on the platform on the licensee's responsibility and it remained his property until sale. In British India, after manufacture, the salt was taken charge of by the factory officer and sold at a future time. Provision had therefore to be made to meet the present system as well as the British system which might have to be introduced here at a future time.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—In the light of the observations made by the Excise Commissioner, I propose that this Section be recast as follows:—

"Licensees shall be bound at their own expense to maintain in repair their salt works and the minor irrigation channels which supply brine thereto, and to deliver into store all the salt manufactured by them, or to store such salt, without such delivery, at such places and in such manner as may be appointed by the Excise Commissioner for the factory or for the salt works of the licensee.

They shall also be bound to protect, at their own expense, the salt stored by them, in such manner as the Excise Commissioner may consider sufficient.

They shall also be bound, when called upon by the Excise Commissioner, on occasions which he may consider emergent, to provide labour and materials for securing salt in store and for executing repairs to the platforms, main channels, roads and other works of the factory, and shall be paid at the rates usually paid in the neighbourhood for labour and materials of a similar description.

No licensee shall be entitled to claim from the Government compensation for any loss or damage to stored or unstored salt lying at any salt factory, unless it be proved that such loss or damage was caused by the wilful act or neglect of an officer of the Salt Department employed at the factory at which the salt was lying".

Seconded by Mr. Easwara Pillai.

Carried.

Section 23.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—Sir, I beg to call your attention to the fact that failure to exercise due diligence renders the licensee liable to punishment which may even be the cancellation of his license. But "due diligence" has not been defined. I think that neglect or default, to entail punishment, must be something definite and specific as in Section 25.

I therefore propose that the words "exercise due diligence in" in line 2 be omitted and that the following be inserted between the words "manufacture" and "or" in line 3:—"salt during the two manufacturing seasons last preceding".

Seconded by Mr. Easwara Pillai.

Carried.

As it was 5 P. M., the Council adjourned to the next day at 11-30 A. M.

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